

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - October 17, 2012

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:32 P.M.

Those Present Were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS Director; Jack Wheatley, Rowe Engineering representing Bay City; Sue Fortune, EMCOG; George Augustyniak, Fraser Township Supervisor; Rachel Phillips, MDOT-Bay City; Jay Reithel, MDOT-Bay City; Jim Koenig, MDOT-Lansing; Tom Foret, Incoming Hampton Township Supervisor; Dan Harran, Bay City; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Eric Sprague, Bay Metro; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township Supervisor, and; Dirk Westbury, BCATS Staff.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Augustyniak, seconded by Sprague, to approve the minutes to the June 20, 2012 meeting. Motion Passed.

Public Comment: There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Sprague discussed the upcoming Bay Metro Transit Route Review and how they are looking to make the routes more efficient and possibly adjust the head ways to meet the needs of the passengers.

Engelhardt inquired on the College route from Meijer to Delta and SVSU. Sprague noted the ridership on that route is down, possible BMTA and the school need to look at better ways to promote that the service is available.

MAP-21 and STP funding for FY 2013 and 2014:

Engelhardt discussed the new Transportation Bill, MAP-21, passed by the Federal Government. It's for two years and also included an extension of SAFETEA-LU through September 30, 2012, and the new regulations started on October 1, 2012. The amount of STP funds distributed by population decreased from 62.5% to 50%. That, coupled with the loss in population in our area, it amounts to 30% less Surface Transportation Funding for road projects the BCATS urban area. The estimate of STP funds from MDOT to BCATS is about \$936,000 for road projects, down from \$1,338,000. MDOT has recommended to keep 2013 as programmed in the TIP, at the \$1,338,000, but FY 2014 would likely have to be reduced. MDOT recommends getting all projects obligated by March of 2013 to assure they'll be funded.

BCATS 2011-14 TIP Amendments - remove Lincoln St, Add Midland Rd., review/add Uptown Project:

Wheatley discussed the possible Economic Development project of reconstructing the ramp coming off of the M-25 bridge, just north of the Uptown site. As all the details are not yet available on the project, this amendment will be held until the December Policy meeting.

The Bay City Lincoln Street project was scheduled to be done in 2013. However, at that time, Bay City will not be able to fund the needed water and sewer work, so the project will be delayed until 2015. This project will need to be deleted from the TIP and the STUL funds that will become available will shift to the Midland Rd Project between 3 Mile Rd and 4 Mile Rd.

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A motion was made by Bragiel, seconded by Wheatley, to approve the BCATS 2011-14 TIP to delete the Lincoln St Project and add the Midland Road project using the STUL funds from the Lincoln Street Project. Motion Passed.

The Bay County Road Commission was awarded a \$400,000 safety grant for their Beaver Road Project. This grant, along with STP rural funds, Economic Development "D" funds, and local matching funds will be used in this project. The safety grant will include centerline rumble strips, signing, and improvement clear zone area.

A motion was made by Fortune, seconded by Bragiel, to approve the BCATS 2011-14 TIP to add the Safety Grant to Beaver Road Project. Motion Passed.

BCATS 2014-2017 TIP:

Engelhardt briefly discussed the BCATS 2014-2017 TIP and explained that it was important for everyone to submit projects for the TIP by the end of this year and is looking at April 2013 for completion of the TIP. Koenig noted that estimate on funds will likely increase 2% per year.

Urban Area/NFC Post -2010 Census Statewide Review Process:

BCATS has begun the Adjusted Urban Area review. The process will be similar to last time from the 2000 Census. Engelhardt will come to the Tech Committee in December with the proposed Adjusted Urban Boundary. The deadline for submitting the boundary to the State is June 2013.

Midland MPO Status:

The Midland MPO is still in the early stages of forming as an independent, stand-alone MPO and recently held their kick off meeting as there are numerous agencies to keep involved. The MPO must be established by March 2013.

Project Updates:

The ***Johnson St Project*** is under construction and currently scheduled to be open November 9th. The ***Salzburg Ave (M-13/M-84) Project*** is out for bid and will start in March of 2013. The first phase, Wenona Intersection and Wenona Ave should be completed by Memorial Day then the project will move west. Sometime after July 4th, the Eucild/Salzburg Intersection will be closed for four weeks during this project. The entire project should be completed by November 2013. Phillips noted that all ***Carpool Lot Projects***, including one in Bay County have been suspended indefinitely.

Other/New Business:

Bay Zilwaukee Rail Trail:

MDOT's offer to purchase the abandon railroad from Bay City to Zilwaukee has been accepted and the closing on the property should happen soon.

MDOT Draft Five Year Plan:

Koenig announced that MDOT is about to release the draft of their 5-year Plan. It should be posted in November and any comments should be submitted by January.

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FHWA Review of the 2040 Plan:

Engelhardt noted that FHWA (including comments from FTA) has returned a few comments regarding the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan approved by the Committee in June. The Plan was approved by the Policy committee subject to any corrections/modifications suggested/ required by either MDOT, FHWA or FTA. The suggestions/modifications suggested by FHWA and FTA will be incorporated and correction pages will be sent to FHWA, MDOT and FTA.

As there was no further business, the October 17, 2012 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by D. Westbury

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